

LIBRARY



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Borough of Barnstaple

FOR THE YEAR 1948.



The Castle,

Barnstaple,

July, 1949.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Barnstaple.*

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

*I have the honour to present the
Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary
Administration of the Borough for the year
1948.*

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

M.O.H., Barnstaple.

INDEX

	Page		Page
Ambulance ...	8	Laboratory Facilities	8, 25
Animals Slaughtered ...	17	Maternity Care ...	7
		Meat Inspection ...	17
Births and Birth Rate ...	4	Meat Condemned	18, 19, 20 21, 22, 23
		Milk Samples	24, 25
Cowsheds ...	24	Meteorological Information	11
Deaths and Death Rate	4, 5	Notices and Letters ...	36
Deaths, Causes of ...	11		
Dairies ...	24	Population ...	4
Disinfections ...	32	Product of Penny Rate ...	4
		Professional Nursing ...	8
Explosives ...	34	Petroleum ...	34
Fish Condemned ...	21	Rateable Value ...	4
Food Inspection ...	17	Rodent Disinfestations	32, 33
Food and Drugs	27, 28, 29	Refuse Collection and Disposal ...	13, 14, 15
Factories	25, 26		
		Sanitary Inspector's Report	12—36
Hospital Services ...	7	Sanitary Operations, List of	35
Housing ...	31	Salvage	13, 14, 15, 16
		Staff ...	3
Infant Mortality ...	5	Tuberculosis ...	7, 9
Inhabited Houses ...	4		
Infectious Diseases	6, 7, 10, 32	V.D. Clinic ...	8
Inspections, &c. ...	36		
Ice Cream ...	30	Water Samples ...	12

List of Staff.

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :—

PART-TIME OFFICER :—

F. J. H. MARTIN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

WHOLE-TIME OFFICERS :—

A. E. TUCKER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. Sanitary Inspector.

R. COOPE, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Miss D. BOLT

Clerk.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	...	...	...	2,396
Population (Registrar General figures)	...	...	...	16,000
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	4,577
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£114,353
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£473

Vital Statistics.

		Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate	170	126	296
	Illegitimate	9	12	21
				<hr/> 317 <hr/>
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population		...	...	19·8
		Males	Females	Total
STILL BIRTHS.	Legitimate	2	3	
	Illegitimate	0	0	5
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				15·52
		Males	Females	Total
DEATHS		110	132	242
DEATH RATE per 1,000		...	...	15·12

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Puerperal Causes	0

The Table appended shows the comparative figures for Barnstaple, and England and Wales.

Rate per 1,000 population			Death Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years
Barnstaple	19·8	0·31	15·12	34·7	3·1
England and Wales	17·9	0·42	10·80	34	3·3

Infant Mortality.

The following table gives the quinquennial rates from 1914 to 1948 inclusive :—

1914—1918	71·90
1919—1923	57·46
1924—1928	68·08
1929—1933	44·19
1934—1938	59·91
1939—1943	48·71
1944—1948	38·24

Deaths of Infants under one year.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	5	10
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	1	1
Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...			34·7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births						33·8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births						47·4
Death from Measles (all ages) ...			...			0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					...	2
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)			...			0

Deaths over 65 years (Local)

65—69	...	20	80—84	...	39
70—74	...	29	85—89	...	25
75—79	...	40	90—94	...	4
			95	...	2
Total		159			

The following table gives the number of deaths from various diseases with the comparative figures for the previous five years and the five-yearly average for the sake of comparison.

Year.	Influenza.	Pneumonia.	Cancer.	Tuberculosis.
1943	6	7	34	5
1944	1	10	26	6
1945	1	8	22	6
1946	3	9	23	14
1947	1	10	36	6
Average	2	9	28	7

1948	0	6	35	6
------	---	---	----	---

The following table gives the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever notified in the Borough compared with previous years :—

		Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Para Typhoid.
1942	...	9	100	0	0
1943	...	29	12	1	1
1944	...	23	6	1	15*
1945	...	8	3	0	2†
1946	...	6	0	1	1‡
1947	...	6	0	0	1
1948	...	28	0	0	0

* 12 of these cases attributed to a source of infection outside the district.

† Both cases were admitted to the North Devon Infirmary from the Rural District.

‡ Contracted outside the Borough.

NOTE:—For the third consecutive year no cases of Diphtheria were notified.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Tuberculosis.

Hawley Sanatorium, situated in the Borough, has 28 beds.

Maternity Care.

The Devon County Council is continuing to act as they did in 1947, as Agents of the Regional Hospital Board, until the Board has completed its own plans for the treatment of Maternity cases.

At the North Devon Infirmary there is a ward of 15 beds, with a fully qualified staff available for cases of doubt or difficulty.

At Bicklecombe Maternity Home, Ilfracombe, there are 20 Maternity and 4 Anti-natal beds.

There are 4 beds at Branton Nursing Home.

NOTE. During 1948, 38 Barnstaple births took place at Ilfracombe, and 4 at Branton.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases.

There is an Infectious Diseases Joint Isolation Hospital at Bidford, which serves the town as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon. It comprises 32 beds (six of which are in observation cubicles) and 4 cots.

Small-Pox.

The Small-Pox Hospital to which any cases of Small-Pox will be sent is the Swilley Isolation Hospital, Plymouth, and the ambulance will be obtained from Tiverton.

General.

The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, serves the area, and provides modern Medical and Surgical treatment available to the residents of the district.

A Blood Bank has been established at the North Devon Infirmary.

There are 123 beds for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital in Barnstaple.

At Branton Nursing Home there are 4 beds for sick persons.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Laboratory is situated at 7 Dix's Field, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are also carried out.

This service is extremely valuable and is widely used by the Medical Practitioners.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

V.D. Clinic. This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annex.
Sessions—

Females.	Mondays, 4 p.m.	Males.	Mondays, 5.15 p.m.
	Thursdays, 4.30 p.m.		Thursdays, 5.45 p.m.

Tuberculosis Clinic held at North Devon Infirmary.

Sessions—

Tuesdays	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		
Thursdays	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	
	2 p.m.—4.30 p.m.		
Fridays	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	A.P. refils
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		

Ambulance Services.

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e., the Devon County Council), is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the Agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves the Borough and district, and the Head Quarters are in Commercial Road. The staff consists of 3 paid members, full time 20 men volunteers and 14 volunteer nurses.

Professional Nursing in the Homes.

There are two district nurses practising in the Borough. Also two whole time midwives and one private midwife.

Tuberculosis.

The two following tables show cases of tuberculosis notified during the year and the deaths from this disease. Sexes are separated. Pulmonary and non-pulmonary are also differentiated.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
1—5				
5—10				
10—15				1
15—20	2			
20—25				1
25—35	3	1		
35—45		1		
45—55	2			
55—65	2			
65 and over				
Totals	9	2	0	2

AGE PERIODS	DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
1—5				
5—10				
10—15				
15—20				
20—25				
25—35				
35—45	2	1		
45—55	3			
55—65				
65 and over				
Totals	5	1	0	0

Infectious Diseases Showing Deaths of Cases Notified (Excluding Tuberculosis)

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Admitted to Hospital		Deaths	
									Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia
Under 1 year		1		2		6	6					
1 to 2 years				1		13	14				2	
2 to 3 years	1			1		10	10		1			
3 to 4 years	3			1		14	4		2			
4 to 5 years	1			1		20	9		1			
5 to 10 years	18			4		62	17		12			
10 to 15 years	4			1		1			4			
15 to 20 years				2	2				1			
20 to 35 years	1			1								
35 to 45 years			1	3								
45 to 65 years			1	3								
65 years & over			1	3								2
TOTAL ...	28*	1§	2	23†	2†	130	60	Nil	21	2	2	2

* Scarlet Fever. One case non-civilian on leave from Weston-super-Mare.

† Puerperal Pyrexia. Both cases admitted to North Devon Infirmary from Rural District.

‡ Pneumonia. One case admitted to North Devon Infirmary from Rural District.

§ Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Case admitted to North Devon Infirmary from Rural District.

For the third year in succession no cases of Diphtheria were notified.

Causes of Death during the Year 1948

Causes of Death		M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	0	2
Diphtheria	...	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	5	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	0	0
Syphilitic Diseases	...	0	0
Influenza	...	0	0
Measles	...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	0	0
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	0	0
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (Males) and Uterus (Females)	...	1	6
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	2	2
Cancer of Breast	...	0	4
Cancer of all other sites	...	8	12
Diabetes	...	0	1
Inter-cranial Vascular Lesions	...	16	17
Heart Disease	...	42	51
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	6	10
Bronchitis	...	5	1
Pneumonia	...	2	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	1	2
Ulceration of Stomach or Duodenum	...	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	0	1
Appendicitis	...	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	2	0
Nephritis	...	2	1
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	...	0	0
Other Maternal Causes	...	0	1
Premature Birth	...	3	2
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	...	1	1
Suicide	...	0	1
Road Traffic Accidents	...	0	2
Other Violent Causes	...	0	1
All other Causes	...	12	7
All Causes	...	110	132

I am obliged to the Barnstaple Meteorological Station at the North Devon Athenæum for the following information :—

Barometer. Highest reading 30·7 ins. Lowest reading 28·7 ins.

Temperature. Maximum 88° 28th July. Minimum 19° 22nd February.
Mean for the year 51·4°

Rainfall. 33·33 ins. Average preceding 10 years 33·44 ins. No. of days on which ·01 ins. or more of rain fell, 179.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

The Castle, Barnstaple, July, 1949.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Barnstaple.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you this my twenty-eighth Annual Report on the work carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors during 1948.

The year has been one of continued progress and work in connection with the different branches of public health duties are set out in detail and it will not be difficult for anyone to form an opinion of the amount of work which these records represent.

When in 1939 the Barnstaple Abattoir was selected as a slaughtering depôt it was not contemplated that in 1948 it would still be supplying the needs of the Boroughs of Barnstaple and South Molton, the Urban Districts of Ilfracombe and Lynton and the Rural Districts of Barnstaple and South Molton. In addition a large number of animals are slaughtered here for London and elsewhere. On pages 17—23 the work of meat and food inspection is fully recorded. Whenever the meat allocation is increased to any great extent involving more home killed meat additional staff will be necessary to maintain the inspection of all carcasses and offals. When the time comes for the department to inspect for purposes of representation the hundreds of sub standard houses the question of staff will need further consideration by the Town Council. The present inspectorial and office staff is in numbers the same as in 1939.

Nothing of a serious nature has occurred during the year to affect the health of the people and the vigilance of the department continues in the accustomed quiet manner.

The total number of visits made was 3,431. The number of animals inspected at the public abattoir was 25,698 and over 66 tons of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption. The casualty carcasses inspected were 504 Beasts, 425 Calves, 1,245 Sheep and 183 Pigs. The percentage of animals affected with Tuberculosis was slightly above the figures for the previous year. The Ministry of Food reported that cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* infestation of cattle have been found in different parts of the country, and requested close examination of all beef carcasses and offals for signs of the disease. So far no case has been recorded in Barnstaple, but search for same throws added work on Inspectors.

Only one statutory notice was served.

Four samples of town water taken for bacteriological examination showed *B. Coli* absent in 100 nil in each case.

Once more I express grateful thanks to Mr. Coope for the splendid way he has carried out his duties during the year, and to Miss Bolt for the fifth year of office work performed in such efficient manner.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

All figures in connection with this service are for twelve months ended March, 1949.

The approximate amounts of refuse collected during the year are as follows :—

House Refuse, 3900, tons. Trade Refuse, 814 tons.

About 17 cwts. of House Refuse collected from each house per year.

In addition 3,455 bins of slaughter-house offal were removed—approximate weight 177 tons.

The following shows the costs in detail.

Refuse Collection.

S.D. FREIGHTERS.				COLLECTION.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages—Drivers	...	557	7	8			1022	9	8 (Collectors)
„ Slaughter-house									
Offal removal	...	38	2	5			73	19	4
Holidays	...	29	17	10			75	17	7
Sick Pay	...	...	...	...			12	9	7
				625	7	11			1184 16 2
Insurance—Health	}								
Superannuation				59	0	5			111 18 2
General									
Petrol	...	173	16	11					
Oil and Grease	...	25	2	11					
Tyres	...	6	18	8					
				205	18	6			
Licences—Road	...	120	7	6					
Driving	...	1	0	0					
Insurance	...	19	16	11					
				141	4	5			
Repairs	...	130	14	7					
New Engine	...	48	6	0					
				179	0	7			
Clothing	...			7	6	10			20 13 4
Rent of Garage	...	26	0	0					
Water	...	12	6						
				26	12	6			
Renewals Fund	...			100	0	0			
Sundries	...			6	2	7			1 2 6
				£1350	13	9			£1318 10 2

Refuse Disposal and Salvage.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages—Tip ...	526	4	0			
Salvage ...	675	8	10			
Sleepers ...		15	7			
Soil ...	112	4	9			
Holidays ...	47	3	3			
Sick Pay ...	9	0	4			
	<hr/>			1370	16	9
Insurance—Health						
Superannuation				129	9	5
General						
Lifting Soil—Bulldozer				41	0	0
Clothing ...				9	11	6
Tools, &c. ...				2	19	10
Salvage Sundries—						
Clothing ...	3	4	8			
Baler & Repairs	17	17	8			
Sacks ...	40	10	6			
Cord ...	1	14	9			
Balax ...	13	13	7			
Paper ...	23	19	1			
Printing, &c....	6	0	0			
Labour-Canvas	20	0	0			
Sundries ...	4	10	8			
	<hr/>			131	10	11
Rent of Dépôt ...				78	0	0
Rent—Parks Committee						
Tip ...				10	0	0
Sundries ...				8	0	
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
				£1773	16	5
	<hr/>			<hr/>		

Summary.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Refuse Collection	1318	10	2	Refuse Disposal	1773	16	5
S.D. Frieghter							
(Proportion)	1340	13	9		10	0	0
	<hr/>				<hr/>		
	£2659	3	11		£1783	16	5
	<hr/>				<hr/>		
Total Expenditure ...				£4443	0	4	

During the year the following figures were returned.

Vehicle	Loads of House Refuse	Loads of Trade Refuse	Loads of Slaughter- house Offal	Miles Travelled	Gallons of Petrol used	Miles per Gallon
1	42	6	10	267·7	45	5·95
2	1429	0	41	5663·3	1117	5·07
3	547	572	259	4407·7	721	6·10
	<u>2018</u>	<u>578</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>10338·7</u>	<u>1883</u>	

TOTAL COSTS

Estimated	Actual
£	£
4083	4443

Trade Refuse
Removal of S.H.
offal ...
Salvage ...

TOTAL INCOME

Estimated	Actual
£	£
260	310
200	194
700	1358
<u>£1160</u>	<u>£1862</u>

It will be seen from the above figures that the cost exceeded the estimate by £360 and the estimated income was greater by £702, showing a net saving of £342.

	£
Total cost of Collection and Disposal (less slaughter-house offal) ...	4331
Total income (less slaughter-house offal) ...	1668
Net Cost ...	<u>2663</u>

	s.	d.
Net Cost per ton (House and Trade Refuse) per annum ...	11	3½
Net Cost per 1,000 population ...	£166	
Rate in the £ ...	5·6	pence

The following table shows the quantities of materials salvaged, together with their value:—

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper & Cardboard	119	11	0	0	762	2	1
Newsprint	..	7	11	1 0	100	3	10
Books and selected waste	28	0	1	0	329	2	9
Bonus (Board of Trade)					40	9	0
Brass ...	...			20		6	3
Lead ...	...			26		10	5
Textiles—							
Rags	...	3	2	3 15	67	2	0
Woollens	...		1	0 23	5	10	0
Bagging	...	1	7	3 26	7	15	9
Cord	...	1	1	0 25	4	15	1
Bones ...	...	1	7	0 25	7	16	2
Bottles 817	...		2	3 21	4	7	8
Jars 7972	...	2	1	0 16	27	4	2
Miscellaneous	...			3 6		15	0

164	8	1	7	£1358	0	2
-----	---	---	---	-------	---	---

In 1947 the Salvage figures were:—

tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
123	0	1	7	949	11	11

Approximately **265 tons** of kitchen waste were collected in the Borough by pig keepers.

Meat and Food Inspection

1,115 visits of inspection were made to premises where food is prepared or sold for human consumption.

25,698 Food Animals were slaughtered and inspected at the Council's Public Abattoir. In addition the following were brought in dressed for inspection :—

Cows, 8. Calves, 2 Pigs, 33. Sheep, 258.

The following tables show the numbers of animals slaughtered at the Public Abattoir, together with comparative figures for the last five years :—

	Beasts (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	
	1477	1100	3431	19318	372 (108 home consumption)	
Year	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Totals	
1943	4400	2759	29678	548	37385	
1944	4990	3202	34659	1152	44003	
1945	3745	3223	24698	937	32603	
1946	3244	3217	22456	557	29474	
1947	2590	3127	21309	288	27314	
1948	2577	3431	19318	372	25698	

9 Licenses were issued to slaughtermen.

The following cases of whole carcasses condemned as being affected with Generalised Tuberculosis were reported to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Health Division.

55 Cows. 17 Heifers. 6 Steers. 9 Calves.
4 Pigs. 2 Bulls.

The following is a list of the meat, etc., condemned as diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption, together with the reasons for condemnation :

Article	No., &c.	Reason for Condemnation
Carcases of Beef	... 137	91 Generalised Tuberculosis 3 Tuberculosis with Emaciation 1 Pericarditis 3 Septicæmia 6 Dropsy and Emaciation 14 Dropsy 12 Johne's Disease and Emaciation 2 Peritonitis 1 Injury 2 Inflammation and Dropsy 1 Jaundice and Uræmia 1 Abscesses and Emaciation
Fore Quarters of Beef	...	19 Tuberculosis (13 carcasses)
Part Fore Quarters of Beef		3 Tuberculosis (3 „)
Hind Quarters of Beef	...	2 Tuberculosis (2 „)
Part Hind Quarters of Beef		1 Tuberculosis (1 „)
Shoulders of Beef	...	2 Tuberculosis (2 „)
Side of Beef	... ..	1 Dropsy
Cows Heads	... 142	114 Tuberculosis 7 Abscess 18 Actinomycosis 3 Dropsy
Beef	... ..	Abscess Tuberculosis Dropsy Injury Nephritis Inflammation Cysts Pleurisy and Peritonitis Tumours Dystokia Bruising Fracture Septic Condition Various
	58 lbs	
	352 lbs	
	622 lbs	
	900 lbs	
	88 lbs	
	76 lbs	
3692 lbs	24 lbs	
	505 lbs	
	96 lbs	
	409 lbs	
	98 lbs	
	367 lbs	
	28 lbs	
	69 lbs	
Carcases of Veal	... 66	1 Pneumonia 1 General Congestion 1 Decomposition 6 Dropsy, &c. 9 Tuberculosis 33 Immature 2 Septicæmia 6 Moribund 7 Inflammation and Emaciation

Article	No., &c.	Reason for Condemnation
Veal ...	76 lbs	3 lbs Congestion 2 lbs Decomposition 18 lbs Dropsy 4 lbs Inflammation 7 lbs Injury 12 lbs Nephritis 8 lbs Cysts 14 lbs Pneumonia 8 lbs Abscess
Carcasses of Mutton ...	309	58 Emaciation and Dropsy 19 General Inflammation 33 Moribund 1 Pyæmia 2 Peritonitis 50 Anæmia and Dropsy 7 Septicæmia 4 Pneumonia 15 Decomposition 2 Uræmia and Dropsy 7 Injury 4 Gangrene and Dropsy 76 Dropsical 2 Empyæmia 1 Medical Taint 5 Gangrenous Pneumonia 2 Septic Pericarditis 4 Jaundice 16 General Anæmia 1 Tuberculosis
Mutton ...	769 lbs 83 lbs 119 lbs 34 lbs 35 lbs 893 lbs 192 lbs 3941 lbs 1090 lbs 441 lbs 79 lbs 46 lbs 81 lbs 79 lbs	Injury Pleurisy Abscess Deformity Peritonitis Dropsy, &c. Inflammation Pneumonia Dystokia Arthritis Congestion Enlarged Joints Various
Carcasses of Pork ...	11	5 Generalised Tuberculosis 3 Dropsy 1 Dropsy and Emaciation 1 Acute Fever 1 General Inflammation
Pork ...	204 lbs	46 lbs Tuberculosis 33 lbs Decomposition 83 lbs Dropsy 33 lbs Injury 9 lbs Nephritis
Pigs Heads ...		23 Tuberculosis
Offals ...	66276 lbs	Various

Article	No., &c.		Reason for Condemnation	
Also	Beef ...	222 lbs	Injury	
		425 lbs	Bone Taint	
	Mutton ...	67 lbs	Various	
	Pork ...	26 lbs	Injury	
	Veal ...	5 lbs	Abscess	
	Imported Livers ...	16 lbs	Mouldy	
	Sausages ...	56 lbs	Contaminated in transit	
	Sausage Meat ...	6 lbs	Decomposition	
	Fish—wet ...	1282 lbs	"	
	" —dry ...	560 lbs	"	
Food in Tins	Meat ...	353 tins	Blown, &c.	} Total tins 1145 Weight 1813 lbs
	Fish ...	43 "	"	
	Vegetables ...	312 "	"	
	Fruit ...	130 "	"	
	Jam ...	52 "	"	
	Soup ...	4 "	"	
	Fruit Juice ...	75 "	"	
	Syrup ...	5 "	"	
	Milk ...	171 "	"	
Various	Pickles, 13 Jars }	lbs		
	Jam 4 " }	8	Broken in transit	
	Fowls ...	103	Decomposition	
	Crumpets ...	16	Damaged	
	Quaker Oats ...	3	Mouldy	
	Shreaded Wheat	1	Contaminated	
	Macaroni ...	56	Mouldy	
	Semolina ...	15	"	
	Flour ...	31	Contaminated	
	Butter Beans ...	427	"	
	Dried Peas ...	7	"	
	Dates ...	15	"	
	Turnips ...	672	Frosted	
	Oranges ...	320	Rotten	
	Sweets ...	3	Damaged in transit	
	Sundries ...	9	Various	
		<hr/> 1686 lbs <hr/>		

The following shows the extent of Tuberculosis found in Bovine Animals :—

	Cows	Heifers	Oxen	Calves
Whole Carcases—Generalised ...	64	18	9	9
T.B. with emaciation	1	2	...	...
Forequarters and lungs ...	1	...	1	...
" lungs and liver ...	2	...	...	...
" head, lungs and skirt ...	1	...	...	...
" head, lungs, liver, skirt and stomach ...	2	1	1	...
Forequarter head and lungs ..	...	1	...	...
" head, lungs, liver and skirt	2	...	...	...
Part Forequarter head, lungs, liver and stomach ...	...	...	1	...
" lungs, liver and skirt ...	...	...	1	...
" lungs, liver, skirt and stomach ...	1	...	...	...
Hindquarters head, lungs, liver, skirt and heart ...	...	...	1	...
" head, lungs, skirt and stomach ...	...	1	...	...
Part Hindquarters lungs, liver and skirt	1	...	...	...
Shoulder, lungs and skirt ...	1	...	1	...
Shoulder, head, lungs and skirt ...	2	...	...	...
Shoulder, head, lungs and liver ...	1	...	...	...
Shoulder, lungs, liver and skirt ...	1	...	...	...
Neck, head and lungs ...	1	...	...	...
Head ...	19	14	10	...
Head and lungs ...	21	4	5	...
Head and stomach ...	...	1	...	...
Head, lungs and liver ...	4	6	3	...
Head, lungs and kidney ...	1	...	...	...
Head, lungs, liver and skirt ...	6	1	...	...
Head, lungs and skirt ...	5	2	...	...
Head, lungs and stomach ...	3	...	...	...
Head, lungs, skirt and stomach ...	1	2	...	...
Head, lungs, liver, skirt and stomach	9	4	2	...
Lungs ...	56	8	9	...
Lungs and liver ...	6	1	...	...
Lungs, liver and skirt ...	10	...	1	...
Lungs and skirt ...	16	8	1	...
Lungs and udder ...	2	...	...	...
Lungs, liver, skirt, stomach and kidney	1	...	...	...
Lungs, liver, skirt and stomach ...	...	1	2	...
Lungs, liver and stomach ...	2	1	...	...
Lungs and stomach ...	4	1	...	...
Liver ...	3	1	...	...
Stomach ...	5	...	2	...
Pluck ...	...	...	...	3

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and condemned :—

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1477	1100	3431	19318	372
„ brought in dressed ...		8	1	258	33
Number inspected	1477	1108	3432	19576	405
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	10	33	57	309	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1076	766	45	2975	24
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	73·5%	72·1%	2·9%	16·7%	7·4%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	29	65	9	1	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	99	190	3	...	31
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	8·6%	23 %	·35%	·005%	8·9%

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops.

The following list shows the number of Cowsheds and Dairies within the Borough, together with the number of retailers and wholesale producers of milk.

Retailers who have Cowsheds and Dairies in the Borough	16
Retailers with Dairy only—non producers ...	10
Retailers whose premises are situated outside the Borough	15
Retailers with Dairy within the district and who have Cowsheds outside	4
Retailer without a Dairy—non producer ..	1
Wholesale producers with Cowshed and Dairy ...	4

In addition to the above, approximately 23 wholesale producers bring milk to the town, making a total of 62 different sources of supply.

There are 4 Tuberculin Tested producers.

2 Accredited producers.

1 Pasteurising Plant.

264 Inspections were made to the 20 Cowsheds and 34 Dairies situated within the Borough. Limewashing is carried out during the months of May and October, and the premises are found to be maintained in a clean condition.

All samples of non-graded milk are taken by the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and are examined at the Area Laboratory in Barnstaple. 953 samples were taken from producers whose milk is consumed in the town. We are grateful to Miss Smithson for the following results and express thanks to her and to the members of her staff for the help given in connection with the bacteriological examinations of milk.

	Grade A.	Grade B.	Grade C.	Total.
Town produced	223	38	19	280
Produced outside	440	80	53	573

The following graded samples were taken by the Health Department and examined at the County Laboratory at Exeter. Once more we record our thanks to Dr. Moore, the County Bacteriologist, and his staff for the help which is so freely given to us.

12 samples of Pasteurised Milk were taken for examination, 4 of which failed to pass the required test.

47 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were submitted for examination and 14 failed to pass.

24 accredited samples were tested & 7 failed to pass the required test.

77 samples were submitted to the County Laboratory for the detection of Tubercle.

65 were negative and 13 inconclusive.

Factories and Factory Workshops.

To indicate the nature of the industries concentrated in Barnstaple a list giving the number of such factories which come within the scope of the Factories Act is appended. While this in no way reflects the magnitude of the industry it gives a broad idea of the types of works in the Borough.

Agricultural Imple- ment Factories 6	Electrical Power Stations 1	Motor Engineering and Repairers 19
Agricultural Merchants and Seed Merchants 6	Engineering (General) 8	Musical Instrument Repairers 2
Bakeries 12	Flour Processors 1	Newsprint Producers 1
Banana Ripeners 1	Furniture Factories 3	Photographers 2
Basket Makers 1	Furriers 2	Plumbers 4
Beer and Mineral Waters 4	Gas Works 1	Potteries 1
Boot and Shoe Repairs 8	Glovers 3	Printers 6
Cabinet and Joinery Shops 19	Gun Smiths and Sports Outfitters 1	Radio Repair Shops 3
Car Battery Repairs 1	Hide Skin Factories 1	Saddlers and Harness Makers 2
Cellulose and Paint Spraying 3	Ice Cream Gateaux Workshops 1	Saw Mills 3
Chromium Platers 1	Iron Foundries 1	Scale Makers and Repairers 1
Concrete Works 2	Lace Factories 1	Sweet Manufacturers 1
Cycle Repairers 2	Laundries 2	Tailors and Dressmakers 16
Dairies 1	Meat Products Manufacturers 2	Tar Making 1
Dry Cleaners 2	Metal Sorting and Marine Stores 2	Tyre Repairs 1
Egg Packing Stations 1	Mirror and Picture Works 1	Upholsterers 6
Electrical Engineers 2	Monumental Masons 4	Warehouses 4
		Watch and Clock Repairs 4

Twenty-one escape in case of fire certificates issued.

Factories Act, 1937.

The following table show inspections, &c., carried out during 1948.

1—INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1 Non Mechanical Factories ...	42	45	3	Nil
2 Mechanical Factories ...	141	171	4	Nil
3 Other premises (excluding out workers premises) ...	1	1	Nil	Nil
Total ...	184	217	7	Nil

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Premises	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	5	5			Nil
Overcrowding ...	1				
Unreasonable temperature ...					
Inadequate ventilation ...					
Ineffective drainage of floors ...					
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) insufficient ...	1	1	1		
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	8	4	1	1	
(c) not separate for sexes ...	2	1			
Other offences (not relating to Home Work) ...	50		49		
Total ...	67	11	51	1	Nil

OUTWORK

Section 110				Section 111		
Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August	Number of Cases of Default in sending lists	Number of Prosecutions for failure to send lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel						
—Making ...	54	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lace Curtains and Nets ...	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	60	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Food and Drugs.

The following table shows the samples taken during the year, with the results of their examination :—

Article	Number taken			Results of Examination
	Formal	Inf'mal	Total	
Milk ...	13		13	8 genuine 5 not genuine 810 18% deficient in fat 814 12% " 816 42% " 819 3% " 830 1% added water
Milk— appeal to cow	2		2	1 genuine 1 not genuine 822 14% deficient in fat
Milk—in course of delivery	3		3	3 not genuine 818 35% deficient in fat 820 17% " 821 17% "
Quaker Oats ..		1	1	Genuine
Sausages—Beef	4		4	4 not genuine 824 16% deficient in meat 825 68% " 826 38% " 827 12% "
	22	1	23	

In addition to the above 36 samples of milk were analysed by your Sanitary Inspector.

The genuine samples of milk—formal—showed an average percentage of fat of 3·54%, and non fatty solids 8·97%.

Samples No. 810, 814 and 815.

Sample No. 810 was purchased during delivery and the analysis showed fat 2·46%, solids not fat 8·88%—12% deficient in fat.

A visit was made to the farm and "appeal to cow" sample taken—No. 813 which showed fat 3·17%, solids not fat 8·76%—genuine milk.

Normally this would have been sufficient evidence to warrant prosecution, but after considering all the circumstances it was decided to meet the dairyman again on the round and as near as possible to where sample No. 810 was taken. A sample was purchased in the ordinary way—No. 814 and then the milk was thoroughly mixed by plunging and a further sample purchased from the same churn No. 815.

No. 814 showed on analysis 2·64% fat, 8·83% solids not fat—12% deficient in fat.

No. 815 showed on analysis 3·3% fat, 9% solids not fat—genuine.

It was found that after milking the churn was left for about two hours before commencing delivery. It was a clear case that the dairyman had failed to realise the importance of plunging the milk after standing and before commencing the round—Producer warned.

Sample 816. This sample on analysis contained 1·74% fat, and 8·65% non fatty solids—a deficiency of 42% fat. When this purchase was made an additional sample was procured and analysed at the office, and as it proved to be very deficient in fat, the dairyman was visited again whilst delivery was still in progress. By this time a considerable amount of milk had been drawn from the churn by means of the tap at the bottom. A sample was taken and analysed at the office and contained 4·65% fat, as against 1·74% earlier on the round. This was another case of milk not being constantly mixed. The producer was informed of the result of his neglect to keep milk mixed during the round.

Samples 818, 820 and 822. Sample No. 818 was taken in course of delivery from retailer to customer and contained fat 1·95%, non-fatty solids 8·99%—35% deficient in fat.

Three days later two samples were taken in course of delivery from producer to retailer after the milk had been thoroughly mixed. No. 820 from a churn containing 8 gallons showed fat 2·49%, non fatty solids 8·8%—17% deficient in fat. No. 821 from churn containing 2 gallons showed on analysis 2·49% fat, and 8·84% non fatty solids—also 17% deficient in fat. Three days later a visit was made to the farm and an “appeal to cow” sample taken No. 822 corresponding

to the milk which this producer had supplied as per samples 820 and 821 and it contained 2·57% fat and 8·84% non fatty solids—14% deficient in fat. It was found that the milk from about half the herd was delivered to the particular dairy where the milk had been found deficient in fat and the remainder to another dairy in the Borough. When all the cows had been milked and mixed together the result showed fat 3·2% and non fatty solids 8·6%. The producer was advised to bulk the milk so that each dairyman should get milk of similar quality.

Sample No. 819 was slightly deficient in fat owing to neglect in mixing.

The following is part of a letter which was sent to every producer and retailer. "Recently a number of samples of milk which were taken under the Food and Drugs Act were found to be deficient in fat due either to improper bulking or not plunging the milk during delivery. All milk when sold is expected to contain at least 3% butter fat and it is the duty of the dairyman to see that customers get milk of that quality. Should any future sample show a deficiency in fat due to lack of control as outlined in this letter the responsibility will be that of the dairyman."

Sample of Sausages No. 824 contained not more than 42% meat—the amount required being 50% and it was therefore 16% deficient. Prosecution followed and a fine of £6 imposed and analyst fee.

Sample 825 contained only 16% meat—68% deficient. Fine of £12 imposed and analyst fee.

Sample 826—31% meat—38% deficient. Fined £8 and analyst fee.

Sample 827 contained 44% meat and was therefore 12% deficient. This, like the three previous samples, were taken on 25th June. On 5th August when the cases were before the Court the defendants in this instance asked for the third sample to be sent to the Government Chemist for examination. The Court adjourned the case for this to be done. It was not until 23rd September that the hearing took place. The Government Chemist found a larger percentage of meat content than that shown by our public analyst, but still below 50%. The public analyst explained that was expected after three months with the meat in a decomposing state. The Court having found the case proved dismissed the case against the firm, but found the manager guilty and he was fined £4 together with analyst fee and special costs.

Ice Cream (10 Different Producers).

No.	Sample No.	Methylene Blue Reduction time hours	Grade
1	1	5½	1
	2	3	2
	3	6	1
	4	1½	3
	5	1	3
2	1	6	1
	2	6	1
	3	½	4
3	1	4½	1
	2	6	1
	3	4½	1
	4	5	1
4	1	6	1
	1	6	2
5	1	3½	3
	2	½	2
	3	3½	2
	4	6	1
6	1	½	3
	2	5½	1
	3	4½	1
	4	½	3
	5	½	4
	6	½	4
	7	½	4

No.	Sample No.	Methylene Blue Reduction time hours	Grade
7	1	4½	1
	2	6	1
	3	3½	2
	4	6	1
8	1	5	1
	1	5	1
9	1	6	1
	2	4½	1
	3	6	1
	4	5	1
10	1	4½	1
	2	4½	1
	3	4½	1
	4	2	3
	5	2½	2
	6	5	1
	7	6	1
	8	6	1

Grade 1	...	Satisfactory	26
"	2	Fair	5
"	3	Unsatisfactory	6
"	4	Very Bad	4

These results are a great improvement on last year when there were 17 Grade 4 Samples and only 8 in Grade 1.

Housing.

Last year on account of the amount of work which the department was called upon to do in connection with applicants for Council houses Mr. Shaddick was appointed housing clerk. It was thought that this would relieve the Sanitary Inspector of the constant interviewing of applicants. This did not prove satisfactory and prospective tenants demanded to see the Sanitary Inspector. This seemed natural as he had been dealing with applicants for over 25 years. This last state became almost worse than the first, and consequently the statutory duties were being neglected.

The department asked to be relieved of this work and Mr. Shaddick was in April transferred back to the Treasurer's Department and in that way was able exclusively to deal with the enquiries.

During the year 42 houses were built by the Town Council in Belmont Road and 20 at Pilton Lawn.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

29 cases of Scarlet Fever were investigated.

The fumigations were :—

Scarlet Fever 23. Cancer 3. Tuberculosis 6.
Verminous 13. Nursing Homes 2.

Five separate lots of bedding were steam disinfected.

Rodent Disinfestation (other than Sewers).

We have one full time Rodent Operator and the work is carried out strictly in accordance with N.S. 19.

Number of visits made in connection with treated premises	...	...	...	...	855
Number of visits where no treatment found necessary					1505
Total quantity of sausage rusk and bread mash used					6080 ounces
Total quantity of poison used	...	...	...	...	167 „
Poison bait consumed	...	...	...	...	776 „
Number of rats killed (estimated minimum)				...	1915
Number of bodies found	...	...	...	...	191

Sewers.

Last year the sewers were treated for the first time and it was estimated then that 435 rats were killed. This year maintenance treatments were carried out and the following table shows that 145 manholes were baited. Test baits taken from 57 manholes and in 88 no takes were recorded. When the poison bait was used takes numbered 52 and no takes at 87 manholes. This shows that the infestation was much less than last year and proves the value of the treatment.

Mr. Williamson continues to take his duties seriously and by his efforts rodent population remains low.

Sewer Treatment.

SECTION	No. of manholes baited		AVERAGE PRE-BAIT TAKES				POISON TAKES			
	1st Maintenance	2nd Maintenance	1st Maintenance Complete	1st Maintenance Partial	2nd Maintenance Complete	2nd Maintenance Partial	1st Maintenance Complete	1st Maintenance Partial	2nd Maintenance Complete	2nd Maintenance Partial
Town	16	16	5	5	8	1	0	10	0	8
Trinity	21	17	2	3	6	2	0	5	0	8
Derby	20	16	6	6	4	0	0	12	0	4
Other Areas	—	6	—	—	0	0	—	—	—	—
Pilton	17	16	0	4	5	0	0	1	0	4
	74	71	13	18	23	3	0	28	0	24
Total No Takes			43		45		46		41	

Estimated kill
1st Maintenance—368 ozs. of Bait used. Poison Bait used 148 ozs. Poison Bait consumed 28 ozs. 56 Rats
2nd " 374 " " 24 48 "

It is a pleasure to record the very helpful co-operation received at all times from Mr. James, the rodent inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Petroleum and Explosives Act.

The following store licenses were granted under the Petroleum Act, 1928 :—

Petroleum Spirit	...	...	...	61
Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium			...	3
Petroleum Spirit and Crude Benzol	...		...	1
Petroleum Spirit, Carbide, and Petroleum Mixtures				1
Petroleum Spirit and Petroleum Mixtures			...	4
Petroleum Mixtures	...	...	...	3
Carbide of Calcium	...	...	...	4
				—
		Total	...	77
				—

The quantities stored are as follows :—

Petroleum Spirit	...	201,092 gallons
Carbide of Calcium	...	2,504 lbs.
Crude Benzol	...	3,800 gallons
Petroleum Mixtures	...	580 gallons

The amount of fees received by the Local Authority for the above licenses was £54.

The number of premises registered for the storage of mixed explosives was 20.

**The following is a detailed list of Sanitary Operations
carried out during the year 1948**

New sets of house drains laid	...	...	6
Drains repaired	...	...	25
Drains cleared	...	..	45
New soil pipes fixed	...	...	6
New interceptors fixed	...	...	3
New vent pipes provided	...	...	7
New inspection chambers built	...	...	10
New gullies fixed	...	...	13
New water closets built	...	...	2
New W.C. pans provided	...	...	33
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	13
Rain pipes repaired	...	...	1
Premises cleansed	...	...	11
Plaster repaired	Internal 9	} ...	32
	External 23		
Windows repaired	...	...	10
Floors renewed and repaired	...	...	8
Staircase renewed or repaired	...	...	1
New scullery troughs provided	...	...	2
New scullery waste pipes fixed	...	...	3
Dampness remedied	...	...	12
Water service improved	...	...	1
Kitchen stoves repaired	...	...	9
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	24
Yards cemented	...	...	1
Yards repaired	...	...	2
Dust bins provided	...	...	22
Miscellaneous	...	...	11
Smoke and water tests applied to drains	...	...	49
Premises where nuisances abated	...	...	211
Vermin eradicated	...	...	13
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	4
Larders provided	...	...	2

Summary of Inspections, &c.

Visits made	...	...	...	...	3431
Houses inspected, Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	181
Revisits	...	...	...	...	312
Visits to slaughterhouse and butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	855
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	52
Visits to other food shops	...	...	...	...	132
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	23
Cowsheds inspected	...	...	...	...	125
Dairies inspected	...	...	...	...	139
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	53
Piggeries inspected	...	...	...	...	3
Factories	...	...	...	...	217
Outworkers premises	...	...	...	...	68
Visits to refuse tip	...	...	...	...	113
Camping sites	...	...	...	...	3
Letters written	...	...	...	...	366
Statutory notices, Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	1
Informal Notices, Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	82
" " " " "				Milk and Dairies	14
" " Factories	...	...	...	...	18
" " Food & Drugs	...	...	...	...	16
Verbal notices	...	...	...	...	101

I wish to record thanks to each Member of the Council, and particularly to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and to all the Officials of the Corporation, for the support and consideration afforded.

I am,

Your obedient servant.

ARTHUR E. TUCKER.

HEALTH
ATSAUGW
C71 84